

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO.

TOPIC Control of the Zonal Border Area

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1C

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REFERENCES

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1. On 16 April 1951, the Soviet border komendantura in Gerstungen was staffed by 20 officers and 80 EM who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including 10 signal men. The komendantura controlled border guard detachments in Dippach, Heiligenroda, Oechsen, and Lauchroeden. The detachment in Dippach consisted of 2 officers and 30 EM wearing black-bordered red epaulets, and was issued 32 German bazookas in early May. The detachment in Heiligenroda was quartered in an estate building and consisted of 2 officers and 11 EM who wore red-bordered black epaulets. The detachment in Oechsen was located in the former civil servants' settlement and numbered 3 officers and 10 EM with red-bordered black epaulets. A soldier of the detachment in Lauchroeden stated that the unit was increased up to 80 men on 3 April by the addition of new soldiers from Gotha. They wore red-bordered black epaulets.
2. German Grenzpolizei Kommandos were located in Abteroda, Vacha, Oberzella, and Berka on the Werra River. The Kommando in Abteroda was located in a wooden building on the premises of the former German ammunition depot and consisted of 1 VP Kommissar and 38 police who conducted patrols to Dippach, Vitzeroede, Springen, and Kratzerode. The Kommando in Vacha was quartered in the Polyklinik and consisted of 1 VP Kommissar and 38 police who were assigned to guard duty on the Werra River bridge and border control. The Kommando in Oberzella numbered 1 VP Kommissar and 38 police. The Kommando in Berka numbered 43 police. This Kommando was issued riding horses, which arrived from Erfurt on 21 April led by 5 police, and 14 German bazookas in early May. A VP Oberwachmeister stated that the police patrols have been equipped with signal pistols since 1 May. A green flare allegedly stood for an attack from the west, and a red flare for the arrest of illegal border crossers. A white flare fired from the command post was to confirm that signals given by border patrols were recognized.
3. On 3 May, five mounted Grenzpolizei members arrived at Untersuhl, coming from Erfurt. They were to be assigned to border patrol duty in the sector controlled by the Grenzpolizei Kommando.
4. In mid-April, the zonal border area of the Rhoen Mountains was divided into two Soviet battalion sectors. One battalion headquarters was located in Dornbach, about 12 km northeast of Tann, and controlled the border sector from Unterweid, about 4 km southeast of Tann, as far as Lauchroeden,

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including Katzenstein, Geisa, and Gerstungen. The other battalion headquarters was located in Meiningen and controlled the border sector from Oberweid, about six km southeast of Tann, as far as the Hildburghausen area, including Bettenhausen, Bibra, and Roemhild. Twenty men were stationed in Unterweid, about 200 in Katzenstein, 24 in Geisa, and about 200 in Dornbach. The number of troops in Vacha, Uexen, and Lauchroeden could not be determined. Observation posts were built into the ground on the Weinberg and on the Stauffersberg near Unterweid. They were sometimes occupied by guards with telephone.

5. Illegal border crossers identified the following units of Soviet soldiers on zonal border duty at the end of April:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Number of Troops</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Gassenreuth	60 men	Quartered in the inn
Sachsgruen	about 30 men	
Wiedersberg	60 to 70 men	
Blosenberg	about 30 men	Allegedly assigned to the detachment in Wiedersberg
Heinersgruen	about 30 men	
Gross Zoebern	A few MGB personnel	The border komendantura was moved to Zwickau on 8 April
Gutenfuerst	1 major and 50 men	
Grobau	About 20 men	
Gerbersreuth	About 30 men	
Gefell and Dobareuth	50 men	Including the border komendantura in Gefell
Juchhoeh	About 50 men	
Dornholz	26 men	
Hirschberg	60 men	
Lehestenmuehle	35 men	
Lehesten	4 men	An observation post only

6. Illegal border crossers identified the following units of German Volkspolizei personnel assigned to border duty at the end of April:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Number of Police</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Blosenberg	30	
Heinersgruen	30	
Gross Zoebern	30	
Krebes	35	

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Gutenfuerst	50	
Grobau	36	
Gerbersreuth	33	Including a VP Post in Moedlareuth
Dobareuth	12	
Gefell	60	A Grenz Kommandantur
Venzka	30	
Hirschberg	50	Numbered only 40 men on 10 April
Hof-Plauen Autobahn checkpoint	1 Kommissar and 10 men	

25X1X

7. In early May, a Soviet border guard detachment of 18 men was still quartered in the Burmeister Haus in Schlagsdorf, northwest of Ratzeburg. The strength of the German VP Kommando in the town had not changed. The VP Kommando of 16 police in Neuhoef, northwest of Schlagsdorf, had moved to Campow, northwest of Neuhoef. The Soviet detachment in Utecht still numbered 17 men. Small German police units in the border area included 16 police in Lankow, 16 in Schlagbruegge, 40 in Schlagsdorf and 16 in Thandorf. No observation towers were observed in the border area.

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